

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-07

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R 151130Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6105

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10942

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG LY

SUBJ: QADHAFI ACCUSED OF ANOTHER BOMBING

REF: CAIRO 10938

1. LEADING STORY IN AHAM AND GUMHURRIYA AUG 15 IS BOMBING WHICH TOOK PLACE MORNING OF AUG 14 IN ALEEXANDRIA ON PASSENGER TRAIN WHICH WAS LOADING FOR DEPARTURE FOR CAIRO. EIGHT PERSONS KILLED, INCLUDING THREE WOMEN AND A CHILD, AND 51 INJURED, 7 SERIOUSLY. INVESTIGATION NOT YET COMPLETED, BUT PRESS PLACES BLAME SQUARELY ON LIBYA CLAIMING EXPLOSIVE CHARGE (WHICH WAS IN BASKET OF PEARS) SIMILAR TO THOSE USED
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BY LIBYA IN PAST. THREE OF INJURED BEING HELD FOR INTERROGATION. INCIDENT REPORTEDLY LED TO PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION AGAINST LIBYAN CONSULATE IN ALEXANDRIA WHICH POLICE CONTAINED. MOST PAPERS CARRY FRONT PAGE PHOTO OF DAMAGED RR CAR AND AHAM INSERTS PICTURE OF

BLEEDING CHILD. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT BUT COVERAGE AND PHOTOS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

2. ALL PAPERS ALSO REPORT FOR FIRST TIME THAT EXPLOSIVES USED IN AUG 8 LIBYAN SPONSORED BOMBING OF GOVT COMPLEX WERE OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE. REPORT ALSO STATES THAT A THIRD CHARGE WAS FOUND UNEXPLODED APPARENTLY DUE TO INJURY OF ACCUSED ABU RAHIQ. DRAWING UP OF INDICTMENT NEARING COMPLETION SO HIS TRIAL CAN TAKE PLACE.

3. PRESS ALSO REPORTS ON "NAIVE" LIBYAN ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE COLOMBO NAC BY DISTRIBUTING "VICIOUS ATTACK" AGAINST GOE LEADERSHIP IN MANNER THAT ANGERED JOURNALISTS AND OTHER DELEGATIONS.

4. COMMENT: UNLESS CLEAR EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY IS DEVELOPED, GOE CERTAIN TO BLAME QADHAFI FOR YET ANOTHER OUTRAGE AGAINST EGYPT COMING AS IT DOES SO SOON AFTER AUG 8 BOMBING (IN WHICH GOE NOW IMPLICATES SOVIETS). EDITORIALS WARNING QADHAFI THAT EGYPTIAN PATIENCE EXHAUSTED, "DEFENSIVE" EGYPTIAN TROOP CONCENTRATIONS ON WESTERN BORDER, AND SADAT'S STERN WARNING AUG 15 THAT "QADHAFI WILL NOT ESCAPE FROM MY HAND" (REFTEL), ALL APPEARED DESIGNED TO REASSURE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE (WHO ARE INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE OF FREQUENTING PUBLIC PLACES) THAT GOE CAPABLE OF ASSURING PUBLIC SECURITY AND OF TAKING WHATEVER ACTION NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH QADHAFI. IF QADHAFI'S UNRESTRAINED TERRORIST AND PROPAGANDA ATTACKS CONTINUE, GOE WILL BE UNDER MOUNTING PRESSURE TO RESPOND. WE BELIEVE GOE HAS ALREADY CONCLUDED THAT QADHAFI IS NO LONGER A "HARMLESS CLOWN" BUT, IN SADAT'S WORDS, A "DANGEROUS LUNATIC." DESPITE THIS, GOE HAS PUBLICLY IGNORED QADHAFI'S THREAT TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 1 AND IS SENDING ITS NEW AMBASSADOR TO TRIPOLI IN NEXT FEW DAYS AND SPEAKER OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SAYID MARI RECEIVED NEW HEAD OF LIBYAN RELATIONS (AMBASSADOR) AUG 12. EILTS

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EG, LY, ET
To: STATE INFO ALGIERS
AMMAN
DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY
KUWAIT
KHARTOUM

LONDON
MOSCOW
RABAT
TRIPOLI
TUNIS
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